

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

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United States Courts
Southern District of Texas
FILED

AUG 2 9 2011

David J. Braciey, Cierk of Court

Criminal No. H-11-111-S

UNDER SEAL

v.

AKINSUNBO AKINBILE,

Defendant.

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

General Allegations

At all times material to this Superseding Indictment, unless otherwise specified:

- 1. The Medicare Program ("Medicare") was a federal healthcare program providing benefits to individuals who were over the age of 65 or disabled. Medicare was administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS"), a federal agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Medicare was a "healthcare benefit program" as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b).
- 2. Medicare was subdivided into multiple Parts. Medicare Part B covered physician services and outpatient care, including an individual's access to durable medical equipment ("DME"), such as orthotic devices and wheelchairs.
- 3. Orthotic devices were a type of DME that included rigid and semi-rigid devices such as foot braces, ankle braces, knee braces, back braces, shoulder braces, elbow braces, wrist braces and hand braces (collectively "orthotics").
- 4. Individuals who qualified for Medicare benefits were commonly referred to as Medicare "beneficiaries." Each beneficiary was given a Medicare identification number.

- 5. DME companies, physicians and other healthcare providers that provided services to Medicare beneficiaries were referred to as Medicare "providers." To participate in Medicare, providers were required to submit an application in which the providers agreed to comply with all Medicare-related laws and regulations. If Medicare approved a provider's application, Medicare assigned the provider a Medicare "provider number." A healthcare provider with a Medicare provider number could file claims with Medicare to obtain reimbursement for services rendered to beneficiaries.
- 6. Medicare paid DME companies and other healthcare providers for services rendered to beneficiaries. Medicare would generally pay for DME and related medications only if they were prescribed by the beneficiary's physician and were medically necessary to the treatment of the beneficiary's illness or injury.
- 7. To receive payment from Medicare, providers submitted or caused the submission of claims to Medicare, either directly or through a billing company.
- 8. CMS contracted with Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers ("DMERCs") to provide Medicare benefits and process claims for reimbursement. The DMERC that processed and paid Medicare DME claims in Texas was CIGNA Government Services ("CIGNA").
- 9. To bill Medicare for services rendered, a provider submitted a claim form (Form 1500) to CIGNA. When a Form 1500 was submitted, usually in electronic form, the provider certified that: (1) the contents of the form were true, correct and complete; (2) the form was prepared in compliance with the laws and regulations governing Medicare; and (3) the contents of the claim were medically necessary.

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- 10. A Medicare claim for DME reimbursement was required to set forth, among other things, the beneficiary's name and unique Medicare identification number, the equipment or medicine provided to the beneficiary, the date the equipment or medicine was provided, the cost of the equipment or medicine and the name and unique physician identification number of the physician who prescribed or ordered the equipment or medicine.
- 11. Hallco Medical Supply ("Hallco") was a Texas business entity doing business at 6633 Hillcroft Street, Suite 126, Houston, Texas 77081. Among other things, Hallco billed Medicare for orthotics, heat pads, power wheelchairs and other DME that was not medically necessary and that in some cases, the beneficiaries never received.
- 12. Defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE**, a resident of Harris County, Texas, was the owner of Hallco.

COUNTS 1-8 Health Care Fraud (Violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1347 and 2)

- 13. Paragraphs 1 through 12 of the General Allegations section of this Superseding Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 14. From in or around June 2007, and continuing through in or around May 2009, in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere, defendant,

AKINSUNBO AKINBILE,

aiding and abetting others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, in connection with the delivery of and payment for healthcare benefits, items and services, did knowingly and willfully execute and attempt to execute, a scheme and artifice to defraud a healthcare benefit program affecting commerce, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), that is, Medicare, and to obtain by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and

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promises, money and property owned by and under the custody and control of Medicare, in connection with the delivery of and payment for healthcare benefits, items and services.

Purpose of the Scheme and Artifice

- 15. It was the purpose of the scheme and artifice for the defendant to unlawfully enrich himself by (a) submitting false and fraudulent claims to Medicare, (b) concealing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and the receipt and transfer of proceeds from the fraud, and (c) diverting proceeds of the fraud for the personal use and benefit of the defendant.
- 16. Defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE** would maintain a valid Medicare provider number for Hallco in order to submit claims to Medicare for DME that was not medically necessary and in some cases, never provided to Medicare beneficiaries.
- 17. Defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE** would control the day-to-day operations of Hallco.
- 18. Defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE** would submit approximately \$737,770 in claims to Medicare for DME, including orthotics and heat pads, that was not medically necessary and in some cases, never provided.
- 19. After payments from Medicare were deposited into a Hallco bank account, defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE** would transfer the proceeds of the fraud to himself.

Acts in Execution of the Scheme and Artifice

20. In execution of the scheme and artifice, **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE** caused the submission of the following claims to Medicare for DME that was not medically necessary and in some cases, never provided:

Count	Medicare Beneficiary	Approx. Date of Claim	Description of Item Billed	Approx. Amount of Claim
1	E.M.	12/20/2007	Orthotics	\$3,830
2	B.M.	1/7/2008	Orthotics	\$3,739
3	M.M.	3/9/2008	Orthotics	\$3,607
4	E.L.	4/8/2008	Orthotics	\$4,249
5	A.L.	5/21/2008	Orthotics	\$3,739
6	G.G.	7/22/2007	Orthotics	\$3,985
7	A.S.	9/16/2007	Orthotics	\$4,060
8	J.B.	9/29/2007	Orthotics	\$4,060

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1347 and 2.

COUNTS 9-10 Aggravated Identity Theft (18 U.S.C. §§ 1028A and 2)

- 21. Paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Superseding Indictment are realleged and incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 22. On or about the dates specified below, in the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere, the defendant,

AKINSUNBO AKINBILE,

during and in relation to a felony violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347 (health care fraud), knowingly transferred, possessed, and used, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person, that is, a physician's name and Unique Provider Identification Number ("UPIN"), in that he submitted and caused to be submitted a Medicare claim for the approximate dollar amount listed below, and represented that, on or about the below date of

service, Hallco had provided the below durable medical equipment to a Medicare beneficiary pursuant to the below physician's order and prescription:

Count	<u>Medicare</u> <u>Beneficiary</u>	Physician/ UPIN	Approx. Date of Claim	Description of Items Billed	Approx. Amount of Claim
9	G.G.	E.U./***811	7/22/2007	Orthotics	\$3,985
10	A.S.	P.A./***018	9/16/2007	Orthotics	\$4,060

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028A and 2.

NOTICE OF CRIMINAL FORFEITURE (18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(7))

- 23. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7), the United States of America gives notice to the defendant **AKINSUNBO AKINBILE**, that, in the event of conviction for any of the violations charged in Counts 1 through 10 of the Superseding Indictment, the United States intends to forfeit all property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to the commission of any such offense, including, but not limited to, a money judgment in the amount of at least \$471,022 in United States currency.
- 24. In the event that the property subject to forfeiture as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
 - a. cannot be located upon exercise of due diligence;
 - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
 - c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
 - d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
 - e. has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

it is the intent of the United States to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the total value of the property subject to forfeiture, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), incorporated by reference in Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1).

> A TRUE BILL ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE

FOREPERSON

JOSE ANGEL MORENO **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

LAURA M.K. CORDOVA TRIAL ATTORNEY SAM S. SHELDON **ASSISTANT CHIEF**

CRIMINAL DIVISION, FRAUD SECTION